

Appl. No. 10/663,376  
Amdt. dated December 23, 2004  
Reply to Office action of August 23, 2004

## REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-6 were present in the application. Claim 1 is amended herein. Claims 5 and 6 are canceled. New claims 7-11 are added.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten, to overcome the objections and to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 5 have been rewritten as new claims 7 and 8, and are submitted to be allowable.

The Examiner objected to the specification noting several informalities. Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for noting these typographical errors, which have been corrected herein.

The drawing objection, which related to claim 6, is believed to be moot in view of the cancellation of claim 6.

Claims 1 and 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Prokopp U.S. 4,963,822. Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant's invention enables movement of a probe pin, and superior breaking through of the natural oxide film stuck on the test pads of a device under test, not provided or contemplated in the prior art. Prokopp discloses a method of testing circuit boards and the like wherein a plurality of pins 11 are connected at one end at a rear wall 12, and which protrude through openings 113 in a front wall 13 at an

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opposite end. Median portions of the pins 11 are made to flex back and forth by a flexing member 14 as the flexing member moves in the direction of arrows "A" and "B". There is no teaching in the Prokopp patent to move the flexing member in any way other than back and forth. Column 7 lines 13-17 of the Prokopp patent states: "The flexing means comprises a plate-like flexing member 14 which is parallel to the front wall 13 and is confined to movements in and counter to the direction of arrow A..."

Applicant claims in claim 1 "...a rotary guide plate...having a guide hole to guide said probe needles...". The invention makes possible a swing like motion of the probe pin ends not heretofore contemplated. To further highlight the invention applicant has amended claim 1 to read "...a driving means to rotate said rotary guide plate in a horizontal plane...". Allowance of claim 1 is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable over Prokopp U.S. 4,963,822 in view of Dang et al. U.S. 6,426,637. Applicant respectfully traverses. The Examiner states Dang et al. discloses a probe testing of an integrated circuit (see Fig. 5A) and exclusively teaches that an eccentric bearing (cylindrical bearing 77) is rigidly attached to each of four guide posts. This reading of the Dang et al document is not believed to be warranted. There are no eccentric bearings taught in the Dang et al document; there are

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only simple bearings 77 which fit concentrically on cylindrical alignment shafts 78 (Fig. 5A). The alignment shafts 78 are part of an assembly means to a construct a "high density interface contact set" (col. 8 line 18) shown completed in Fig. 5D. Fig. 5A illustrates two rows of probes 130B sandwiched together using guide plates 76 and flat spacer plates 79. Once the interface modules 75 are assembled (shown in Fig. 5B) the larger high density contact set is completed by fitting plural interface modules 75 together by passing the ends of the alignment shafts 78 into holes provided in rings 85. The alignment shafts 78 serve only to align the interface modules 75 in the rings. There is no movement intended, nor taught. Applicant claims "...said movable holding means is the fixed guide pin inserted in said eccentric bearing" in claim 3, and "...said movable holding means is the fixed guide pin fixed in said rotary guide plated and inserted in said eccentric bearings" in claim 4. One skilled in the art would not be able to use the Dang et al. document to modify the Prokopp probe card to arrive at applicant's invention as claimed. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 3 and 4 is respectfully requested.

New method claims 9 - 11 are presented. They are believed to be in condition for allowance. Support for claim 9 is found, for example, in FIG. 1 - 3 and in the specification pages discussing these figures. Support for the further limitations

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of claims 10 and 11 are found at page 5, line 15 and page 14, lines 6-7. Allowance is respectfully requested.

The applicant acknowledges the prior art made of record and not relied upon. The applicant believes these references do not anticipate nor render obvious the claims in this application.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

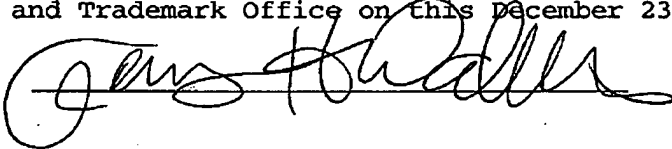
Respectfully submitted,

  
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